

## Simple steps save time

Have an order for what you want to accomplish. If you have your actors trying to do too many things at once, clarity disappears and may never come back. Decide what you want mastered first. Pick a task to complete for each rehearsal. What that task is will depend completely on the show.

It could be the rhythm of a dialogue exchange, an emotional arc to a monologue, the speed of something, the fluency of something else. One thing takes precedence and once that's established, move on. Simple steps build strong foundations. You build on each completed task through successive rehearsals. It's a great way to maximize creative time.

Teach everyone that the stage manager is the only one who knows administrative answers. You create the rehearsal schedule but always defer to the stage manager regarding rehearsal times. You are training everyone for production week when they all must depend solely on the stage manager. As the leader you have to slowly transfer control over to the stage manager. The cast and crew will follow along if you do so. This will save a great deal of time in production week.